Hon'ble Members have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The Government's policy approach is in general in favour of promoting regional economic cooperation. However, no proposal with regard to formation of an Asian Economic Community is presently under Government's consideration.

WTO's Effect on India's Food Production

*196. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's self-reliance in food production is likely to be undermined by coming into being of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether Government have guaranteed a minimum market access to imports of 6 million tonnes of foodgrains;

(c) whether under the World Trade Organisation foreign multinational companies are likely to capture/dominate the Indian seed market; and

(d) what measures are being considered to ensure that India's food security does not develop a dependency syndrome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mandatory publication of MRP of Consumer Products alongwith their Advertisements

*197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make the publication of maximum retail price or the approximate cost of a consumer product mandatory alongwith its advertisement in the print and electronic media to stop the fleecing of consumers by the retailers;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of the consumers so that they know the actual sale price of consumer items advertised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the existing provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, if the retail price of a commodity in packaged form is stated in an advertisement, the net quantity or number of commodity contained in the package shall also have to be declared along with it.

Discussions regarding Economic and Trade Ties with Singapore

*199. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Singapore the Commerce Minister had discussed various proposals for augmenting the economic and trade ties between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the agreements/proposals signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There has been no visit by the Commerce Minister to Singapore during the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.